THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Even as per current practice, non-officials are appointed to the Boards of Management of Air India and Indian Airlines with professional experience. Only a limited number official Directors as are concerned with the operation of the two airlines are appointed to the two Boards.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointments to senior post in Air India

229. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules had been framed by the Air-India for appointment of Deputy Directors, Senior Managers and other senior officers in the Departments of Engineering and Airport Services; if so, when;

(b) whether Government would lay on the able of the House of Parliament a copy thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the selection and appointments to these posts had been made during the year 1990-91 and till date?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The appointment to the post of Deputy Director is made either by horizontal transfers or internal promotion. As regards appointments to the posts of Senior Managers and other Senior Officers, promotions are effected from amongst the officers of the respective Departments. The promotion policy and procedures have been laid down by Air India. The appointments made during 1990-91 have followed the laid down procedure. There is no legal requirement to place such circulars on the Table of the House. However, the service regulations have been placed on the Table of the House.

Flights operating between Kerala and Middle East Sector

230. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present Air India and Gulf Air lines are operating on Kerala-Middle East Sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this effected the revenue of Air India and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other air lines are also opting for this route; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to protect the interest of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Emirates and Saudia have also expressed their desire to operate to Trivandrum directly. Trivandrum was declared as an international airport for the convenience of the travelling public. While interests of Air India would be watched access may have to be given to foreign airlines in the interest of travelling public.

Excess Baggage of Indian Hockey Team

231. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of the Indian Hockey Team on their way back from Auckland via Singapore were off loaded at the Singapore airport as they had access baggage and no money to pay;